

Japan. - T 1975

How to Win Japan
and
Where to Begin

LIBRARY
NEW YORK CITY

By the

RT. REV. H. ST. GEORGE TUCKER, D.D.

Bishop of Kyoto



CHRIST CHURCH, OSAKA

This photograph does not show the dilapidated appearance of the constantly crumbling plaster walls

HOW TO WIN JAPAN & WHERE TO BEGIN

JAPAN as a nation can be won for Christ only by Japanese. An independent, self-supporting, self-led Japanese Church is the agency through which alone Christianity can be carried to the great mass of the people of the country.

For this two things are necessary: Japanese Christian leaders and congregations strong in faith and self-supporting financially. Missionary educational institutions are designed to meet the first of these two needs. The purpose of evangelistic work is to develop the second.

SELF SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Since self-supporting churches are of such importance for the future of Christianity in Japan, they should be well equipped for their work. At the present stage of development, however, their financial resources are exhausted in paying for current expenses and the salary of the native pastor, so that they are unable to provide for themselves buildings and other material equipment at all adequate to their opportunities for rendering service. To help such churches, especially those in important centres, in securing proper equipment, is the quickest and surest way to the accomplishment of our missionary ideal—a Christian Japan.

A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

It is on these grounds that an appeal is now made to the American Church for aid in providing new buildings for Christ Church, Osaka. This church is the oldest in the Nippon Sei Ko Kwai. Forty-one years ago Bishop Williams confirmed a class of four in Osaka, the first communicants of our Church in Japan. From this small beginning Christ Church struggled

on until, in 1906, it reached the point where it no longer had to ask aid in paying its pastor's salary. This pastor, the Rev. Y. Naide, is one of the most influential and successful Christian leaders in Japan; a man not only of ability but also of deep spirituality. At present there are 217 communicants on the rolls, and the number is rapidly increasing. Over 50 persons have been presented for confirmation during the past 18 months.

STRATEGIC OSAKA

The church is situated in an important section of Osaka, a city of 1,300,000 inhabitants, the greatest commercial and manufacturing centre in Japan. Moreover the people of the city are remarkably responsive to Christian influence and teaching. These facts make Osaka a point of great strategic importance for the cause of Christianity, especially in the building up of an independent Japanese Church. Most missions, recognizing this, have during the past few years provided excellent buildings for their churches. But the Sei Ko Kwai, though it has the largest number of churches, and occupies the most influential position in almost every department of Christian activity in Osaka, is the worst off of all so far as material equipment is concerned. There is not a single church, either worthy in appearance, or adequate in size. Among a people who value beauty as do the Japanese, and in a city abounding in fine buildings, the church should be represented by at least one suitable place of worship and by an adequate plant for evangelistic work. At present all special services and meetings have to be held in rented halls. Not only so, but the buildings are woefully inadequate for even the regular work of the Church.



Rev. John Yasutaro Naide



Osaka Library and Statue of Hideyoshi, the greatest Japanese general. His castle was in Osaka



The Bank of Japan

SOME PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF OSAKA

THE CONDITION OF CHRIST CHURCH

In the case of Christ Church, the need for new buildings is especially urgent. The present plant renders any further expansions impossible. The church itself is in a shocking state of dilapidation, requiring frequent expenditure of money for repairs that do no good. It is much too small to seat even the regular members. When I was there for confirmation recently, all the children and younger people had to be told not to come to the service, because there was no room for them.

The parish house is a necessary adjunct of the church in evangelistic work—even more so in Japan than in America—but the one at Christ Church is really a disgrace. The very appearance of these buildings would give the passer-by the impression that he was gazing upon the ruins of a lost cause, to say nothing of their utter inadequacy for any progressive work.

Here then is a church, full of enthusiasm, deeply conscious of its responsibilities, and surrounded by opportunities; but held back by want of proper equipment. Though much is accomplished, still greater opportunities are lost through want of means to utilize them. The congregation itself realizes this, and is making strenuous efforts to supply its own needs. Already they have pledged toward new buildings over \$2,000, and they hope to more than double this sum within another year. This is a large amount in comparison with their financial ability, but it is altogether insufficient for the necessary buildings; indeed it would not suffice to rebuild on the scale of the present ones.

THE HELP NEEDED

Thirty-five thousand dollars at the very least is needed to provide a church and parish house suitable to meet present opportunities and provide for future expansion. Of this the congregation will raise \$5,000. On their behalf, or rather on behalf of an independent, self-supporting Nippon Sei Ko Kwai, I wish to appeal to the American Church for the remaining \$30,000. \$35,000 may seem a large sum to spend on the plant of

our church, but this church is not only the centre of the work in the great city of Osaka, but will be the centre of the work of the first independent Japanese diocese. It is much more than a parochial institution, and we cannot afford to set apart the first Japanese diocese, unless it is equipped with some such central plant, that will at once worthily represent Christianity and at the same time be adequate for its work. To concentrate our efforts, and to provide in this most important centre a plant and church commanding respect, is undoubtedly the wisest policy we can pursue.

In my opinion there is no more important need than this in the whole range of the evangelistic work in Japan.

BISHOP WILLIAMS' MEMORIAL

When last year this appeal was first sent to the Board of Missions with Bishop McKim's endorsement, it was proposed that the new church should be a memorial to Bishop Williams. Nothing could be more appropriate, for Christ Church has been associated with him from the very beginning of its history. It was here that he began his work in Osaka—the first permanent work of our Church in Japan. It was here that the first person was confirmed by him. From this congregation went forth many of the men who under his guidance and training became the leaders of the Japanese Church. In all probability one of the first independent Japanese dioceses, with a native bishop, will be established in Osaka. Already in this city there are five self-supporting churches. Six are required before a diocese can be formed and a bishop chosen. Within a few years these conditions will be met, and the vision which forty-one years ago led Bishop Williams to begin his work in Osaka will have become a reality. What could be more fitting than that a church representing the realization of the purpose for which he gave his life should form his memorial among the Japanese?

❶ Make subscriptions payable to George Gordon King, Treasurer, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York.

TO GEORGE GORDON KING, TREASURER
281 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

In view of the importance of properly equipping the Christian parishes of Japan, I desire to give the sum of for the Building Fund of Christ Church, Osaka.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PAYABLE.....

As the erection of new buildings could not begin before the spring of 1914, pledges, if more convenient, may be made payable in three installments May, 1914; August, 1914; November, 1914.